India's Fiscal Performance

*207. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has said that India's worsened fiscal performance could undermine the credibility of the fiscal adjustment programme; and

(b) if so, what is the basis for such concern on the part of World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Fiscal consolidation has been at the heart of the strategy of macro economic adjustment and reform initiated by the Government four years ago. There was significant inital success in bringing down the fiscal deficit of the Central Government from 8.4% of GDP in 1990-91 to 6.2% in 1992-93. But there was slippage in 1993-94 to 7.3% of the GDP, due to unexpected increase in expenditures and a shortfall in revenues due to slower than expected pace of industrial recovery. Recognising that weakness on the fiscal front must be corrected, the Finance Minister had stated in his speech to the Parliament on 28th February 1994, while presenting the Union Budget for 1994-95, that fiscal performance must be improved otherwise there is a serious danger that the country may slip back into the earlier position. The World Bank in its Country Economic Memorandum published in May 1994 has also stated that unless fiscal performance is improved, it could undermine the credibility of the reform programme.

The Government itself is seized of the necessity to reverse the fiscal slippage which occurred in 1993-94 and this year the fiscal deficit is expected to be restricted to about 6.7% of the GDP. Even this amount includes 0.5 percentage points of unanticipated transfers to the States on amount of small savings collections exceeding Budget Estimates. But for this development the fiscal deficit would have been 6.2%. The Finance Minister reiterated in his speech to the Parliament on 15th March 1995, while presenting the Union Budget for 1995-96, the Government's resolve for determined action to ensure that fiscal discipline is further improved in years ahead and announced a target of Central Government fiscal deficit at 5.5% of GDP in 1995-96.

पंजीकृत आयकरदाता

*208. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में इस समय कुल कितने पंजीकृत आयकरदाता है और उनमें से कितने आयकरदाताओं पर आयकर बकाया है और कब से है तथा पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान ऐसे करदाताओं की वर्षवार संख्या कितनी रही है और इन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्यक्ष कर की बकाया राशि कितनी रही है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि देश में आयकरदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि के बावजूद प्रत्यक्ष करदाताओं की संख्या और प्रत्यक्ष कर की वसूली में कमी होती जा रही है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और सरकार ने संबंधित करदाताओं से पछले तीन वर्षों से अब तक की बकाया राशि को वसूल करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति): (क) आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 की धारा 115 ट के अंतर्गत अनुमानित कर योजना के अधीन कर का भुगतान करने वाले 1.66 लाख व्यक्तियों के अलावा लगभग 112 लाख आयकरदाता (कंपनियों सहित) इस समय आयकर विभाग के रजिस्टरों में दर्ज है। 31.3.1994 की स्थिति के अनुसार 40.88 लाख मामलों (अनंतिम) में भी भिन्न-भिन्न अवधियों के लिए 13749 करोड़ रुपये का कुल कर (निगम कर सहित) बकाया था। गत तीन वर्षों के बारे में आंकड़े निम्न प्रकार है:-

वित्तीय वर्ष	ऐसे मामलों की संख्या जिनमें कर बकाया थें	बकाया धनराशि
1991-92	37.11 लाख	8461 करोड़ रु.
1992-93	38.10 लाख	9488 करोड़ रु.
1993-94	40.88 लाख	13749 करोड़ रु.

(ख) जी, नहीं। यह सही नहीं है। जहां 31.3.1992 की तुलना में करदाताओं की संख्या लगभग 78 लाख से बढ़कर 31.1.1995 को लगभग 112 लाख हो गई है और करदाताओं की संख्या में 44% की वृद्धि हुई है वहां तदनुसार वित्तीय वर्ष 1991-92 में राजस्व भी 14,582 करोड़ रु. से बढ़कर वित्तीय वर्ष 1994-95 (21.3.1995 तक) में 22,212 करोड़ रुपये हो गया जो लगभग 52% की वृद्धि को प्रदर्शित करता है।

(ग) आयकर विभाग द्वारा बकाया मांगों की वसूली के लिए अनेक कदम उठाये गये हैं जिनमें अर्थदण्ड लगाना, चल एवं अचल संपत्तियों की कुर्की तथा बिक्री, न्यायालयों द्वारा दिए गए स्थगन आदेशों को रद्द कराने के लिए प्रयास शुरू करना, बड़ी धनराशि वाले बकाया मामलों की कड़ी निगरानी और अनिर्णीत अपीलों के शीघ्र निपटान के लिए अपीलीय प्राधिकारियों से अनुरोध करना शामिल हैं।

Proposal to Open Ross Island for Tourism

*209. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Ross Island for tourism;

(b) if so, whether instructions have been issued to Navy to hand over the Island to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to ensure protection of the historic structures on this Island which according to newspaper reports are in imminent danger of total collapse?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ross Island is opened for domestic tourism.

(b) and (c) Andaman & Nicobar Adminsitration have indicated their interest in looking after the historical monuments on the Island and are awaiting decision to their request that this Island should be handed over to them.

Reduction in Import and Excise Duty on Synthetic Fibre

*210. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the possibility of reduction of import and excise duty on the synthetic fibre in view of increasing demand for the cotton products abroad; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the exports of textiles and garments would received a fillip if internal consumption of cotton based fabrics and garments is reduced by supplementing the use of synthetic fibre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The exports of cotton based fabrics and garments depends on several factors including cost of production, quality preferences, the demand, supply and price trends in the domestic as well as international markets. In the course of the last few years, Government have taken steps to reduce the cost of synthetic fibres. In this year's budget, the import duty on synthetic fibres has been reduced from 65% to 45%. The import duties on raw materials and inputs used in manufacture of synthetic fibres have also been considerably reduced. This is a continuing process. These measures should help in augmenting supply of synthetic fibres at a competitive price, which may result in reduced demand for cotton and cotton based fabrics/garments in the indigenous market. There is no proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the excise duty on synthetic fibres from the existing level of 20%.

Losses due to Inadequate Coal Supply, Transmission and Distribution

*211. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that erratic/irregular supply of coal to power houses causes loss approximately of 10,000 MW per annum;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10,000 MW loss occurs per annum due to transmission and distribution loss;

(c) whether lack of planned repairs programme is causing a loss of 10,000 MW per annum; and

(d) whether Government are considering to change the above scenario; if so, in what manner?